

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1952 - (PRELIMINARY)

The following preliminary particulars for 1952 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1951 in parentheses.

Births Registered. - The number of births registered was 17,884 (17,463) an increase of 421. For the years 1929 to 1941, the number of births was lower than in earlier years and in 1935 there were only 8,270 which was the lowest since 1876. From 1936 onwards there has been almost a continuous increase to the record total of 17,884 in 1952. Although the actual number registered was a record, the rate per 1,000 of mean population of 24.20 (24.25) was much lower than in the earlier years of the State and it also was lower than the rates in 1946, 1947, 1950 and 1951.

Actual Births. A period of 42 days after birth is permitted for registration and the number of births registered in a year therefore differs from the number of births actually occurring during the year. The numbers of registered and actual births during recent years have been:- 1947 - 16,317 and 16,191; 1948 - 15,870 and 16,091; 1949 - 16,042 and 16,203; 1950 - 17,306 and 17,320; 1951 - 17,463 and 17,315. The number of actual births for 1952 is not yet available.

Sexes of Births. The number of boys compared with 100 girls born does not vary greatly and in recent years has been:- 1949 - 105.64; 1950 - 105.39; 1951 - 105.45 and 1952 - 104.55.

Adoptions. 403 (404) children were legally adopted during the year.

Legitimations numbered 68 (37).

Deaths Registered. 7,050 (7,184) a decrease of 134 on the record total of the previous year, the rate being 9.54 (9.98). The numbers dying from the various causes are not yet available for 1952 and hence comparisons cannot be made.

Infantile Mortality. Deaths of children under 1 year were 413 (428). The infantile death rate, or the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births during the year of calculation, was 23.09 (24.51). This rate was a record low for the State, the previous lowest being 24.04 in 1950. The S.A. rate is one of the lowest in the world and has shown a remarkable decrease. Eighty years ago it was 150, sixty years ago it was 100, thirty years ago it was 60 and 25 years ago it was about double the present rate.

There were 123 (126) deaths of children under 1 day, 144 (160) of children from 1 day to 1 month and 146 (142) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Compared with earlier years there has been a distinct decrease in the death rate of children under 1 month but a far greater decrease in respect to children from 1 month and under 1 year.

Deaths of infants from principal causes for 1952 (1951) have been:- Diarrhoea 19 (17), Congenital Malformations 78 (62), Prematurity 107 (120), Injury at birth 39 (48), Other diseases peculiar to early infancy 58 (59), Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 2 (2), Meningitis 5 (5), Whooping Cough 3 (2), Diphtheria - (1), Measles - (-), Pneumonia 56 (58) Hernia & Intestinal obstruction 2 (6) and all other causes 44 (48).

Still Births. These are not included in either births or deaths and they numbered 320 (316).

Marriages. The number of marriages celebrated was 6,241 (6,646) and the rate per 1,000 of population was 8.45 (9.23). The record number of marriages was 8,129 with a rate of 13.34 in 1942 and the lowest in recent years was 5,321 with a rate of 8.48 in 1945. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 689 (776).

SUMMARY RETURN. The following return shows the number of births deaths and marriages, the rate per 1,000 of mean population, the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

PERIOD	BIRTHS REGISTERED		MARRIAGES		DEATHS REGISTERED			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.30	6,843	11.25	6,235	10.25	406	34.57
1945-49	15,613	24.09	6,328	9.77	6,369	9.83	427	27.33
Year								
1948	15,870	24.11	6,704	10.18	6,748	10.25	472	29.74
1949	16,042	23.80	6,247	9.27	6,373	9.45	445	27.74
1950	17,306	24.72	6,585	9.40	6,740	9.63	416	24.04
1951	17,463	24.25	6,646	9.23	7,184	9.98	428	24.51
1952	17,884	24.20	6,241	8.45	7,050	9.54	413	23.09

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population.

(b) Per 1,000 Births.

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